Eternal Life

Mar. 25, 1934

Mark 10:17 Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Instead of answering the ? himself at once, had Jesus turned to the crowd and asked one of them to answer for him. Perhaps a Pharisee would have replied," Keep the law; give one tenth to the Temple, observe the Sabbath, offer sacrifices regularly and always go to Jerusalem to the Passover."

If Jesus were to ask a group of men today- "Go to church, contribute to its support, partake of its sacraments". Or another might say, "Believe the doctrine of the Church- in the Blood Atonement, in justification by faith, in the Apostles Creed.

The Catholic servant girl who tried to persuade me to go to the priest for baptism.

The "Y" secretary who once thot that the main thing was to get a person to join the church.

Many today in the church think about the same way. So long as one is a member of the church heaven is insured to him and he can live and do as he pleases.

I. Jesus reply-Love God and love your neighbor.

1. These two are one commandment. You cannot love God and not love his people.

Some have worshipped God on Sunday, then during the week made misleading statements in business in order to profit dishonestly.

Some young people have testified at a C.E. consecration meeting, then during the week have done questionable things.

2. A knowledge of religion truth and an attendance upon divine services are not enough. There is further needed the vital principle of Love. Love is not primarily an emotion, or a sentiment. Love is action, love is service, love is duty willingly and well done, love is consideration for others, sympathy, self-sacrifice. Love is not determined by the qnantity of tears we shed, but by the amount of service we render to those in need.

3. Jesus gave two illustrations of love which we will endeavor to express in modern language.

a- The widow's request of her elder son, "Jim, will you please clean the furnace and build the furnace for the day?" Jim frowned and declared that he didn't feel like doing it. John, the younger, spoke up, "I'll do it

mother." But when breakfast was over a boy came along and asked John to come out a play with him. "Oh, well, it is'nt hard work and mother wont mind for once" and away went John to his play.

Another boy came along and asked Jim to go hunting with him- the first of the season. But Jim refused in order to stay home and clean the furnace, not wishing his mother to do it. Who loved his mother the more, Jim or John? Love is not talk, but helpfulness.

b- Another illustration commonly called the parable of the Good Samaritan.

One Sat. night A man was walking from Winters to Montecello thru Pudah Canyon. Near Devil's Gate he was beaten and robbed by highwaymen and left in a dying condition. The next morning a minister came along on his way to his church service He saw the man lying helpless by the roadside but reasond that he could do little for him and if he tarried he would be late for his service, and so he passed on.

A "Y" secretary shortly afterwars, rode along in his auto and he saw the dying man by the roadside. He had to attend a special conference on religious work and musthurry to his appointment, and if he stopt to render aid he would miss the appointment aptogether.

Finally a negro came along driving a mule. Upon sheing the dying man he reasoned, "If the robbers return, they will kill me too, nevertheless he stopt, bound up the wounds of the victim, put him gently into his wagon and drove to the first house where there was an automobile. The negro paid the owner of the machine to drive the dying man to the hospital. In the mind of Jesus this negro possessed the essential element of life- love and self-sacrifice.

However, we cannot imagine a minister or a Y secretary doing any such thing as we have described. And so Jesus spoke of the priest and the Levite in just such a way to illustrate that ritual, creed, and church-membership amounts to nothing if these other qualities are neglected. In themselves they are not eternal life. And they are of value only as they enable us to lay hold of thateternal life which is a matter love and righteousness.

Wrong If you would have eternal life, says Jesus, reach out until you clasp His hand and let Him lead you thru life in paths of loving service. Be kind, be good for something, be honest, love people and help others all you can; and if you do, you will very likely belong so some church and have your doctrinal convictions, butgbeater than these is your life in God, a life of Love and Goodness.

Edson's Conception of Immortality - material form an evil principle